

PRESERVING: ■ FAMILY FARMS ■ SOIL ■ SCENIC VIEWS
 ■ RIVERS & STREAMS ■ CULTURAL SITES ■ SCENIC BYWAYS
 ■ GROUND WATER ■ RURAL CHARACTER



Clarke County Easement News

FALL

2008

Authority Accepts Easement on 186-Acre Sipe Family Farm “This land is in our hearts.”

Those were the words Denise Sipe used to describe why she and her husband, Joe, chose to put their land in permanent easement rather than sell to developers.

Not that they didn't have offers.

There were plenty, Mr. Sipe said, during the 56 years his family has owned the land. But he turned them all down because of a deep desire to protect the land's riches “for all to enjoy.”

And the riches are in abundance, including:

- Twenty acres of woodland adjacent to the Blandy State Arboretum
- 19th century home designated as a historic structure

contributing to the Greenway Historic District

- Natural spring located within the county designated groundwater recharge area
- Open pasture used to graze cattle and grow Christmas trees

Mr. Sipe started the Christmas Tree Farm in 1983. It keeps him busy throughout the year, shaping and pruning trees as well as planting 5,000 new seedlings. All this activity ensures a steady supply of fresh trees for the scores of people who return year after year for a tree from the Sipe's farm. The biggest seller? White Pine.

The property is situated alongside a state-designated scenic byway, the Arboretum and an existing easement. So this easement not only protects natural resources on the Sipe's land, it also adds acreage to an already significant amount of open space in this part of Clarke County.

Funds to cover legal fees and survey required to complete the easement came from donor contributions.



Denise & Joe Sipe

Blue Ridge Mountain Civic Association Hosts Presentation On Open Space

November 12, 2008

7:00 pm

Bear's Den
 Bluemont, VA

Easement Authority
 Chair, Wingate

“Winkie” Mackay-Smith,

will make a presentation on protecting open space with conservation easements at the November 12th semi-annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Mountain Civic Association (BRMCA).

BRMCA is dedicated to preserving the unspoiled beauty of the mountain as well as protecting its abundant resources for all to enjoy.

The slide presentation, entitled *Helping Preserve the Land We Love*, is filled with photos of properties the Authority holds in easement, including some on the mountain.

In addition to learning about the role easements play in protecting vital natural resources in our county, those who attend the November 12 meeting will also receive an update from BRMCA about developments on the mountain affecting residents and visitors alike.

The public is welcome. For details contact Alison Teetor, 540 955-5134.

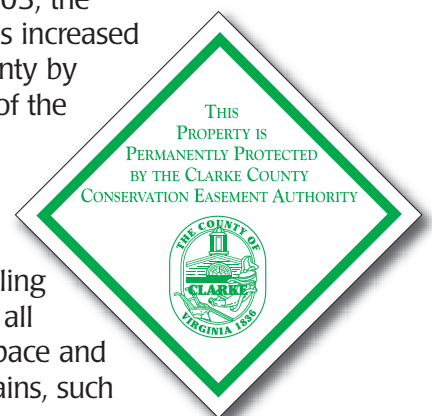


Help Spread the Word!

If your group would like to host a presentation of *Helping Preserve the Land We Love*, send your request via e-mail to ateetor@clarkecounty.gov.

Easement Authority Increased Open Space 11%

Since its founding in 2003, the Easement Authority has increased open space in Clarke County by 11%, contributing 2,479 of the 22,238 acres now permanently protected. The effort has resulted in retiring 76 Dwelling Unit Rights (DURs), plus cancelling 13 building lots in Boyce, all helping to protect open space and the vital resources it contains, such as groundwater.



Many Thanks to ALL Our Contributors!*

*As of 7/31/08

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Did You Know?

■ A study conducted by the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center found that farming and forestry had a total economic impact of \$79 billion in 2006 and supported more than a half-million jobs in the Commonwealth.

■ Twenty-percent of Clarke County’s total area is now permanently protected by conservation easements.

■ Replacing one incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) can save a homeowner over \$30 in electricity costs over the bulb’s lifetime. Even more important, it will save 2,000 times its own weight in greenhouse gases. Change 12 bulbs and you’ll reduce as much pollution as an acre of forest. Change 18 bulbs and you’ll prevent as much pollution as removing one car from the road for a year.

■ Sign up for the Piedmont Environmental Council’s e-mail alerts and receive a free bumper sticker: *“Farmland Lost is Farmland Lost Forever.”*

Please join these individuals in helping preserve open space in Clarke County. Complete and mail this form with your tax deductible contribution today.

YES! I want to help preserve open space in Clarke County.

Please accept the enclosed tax-deductible contribution in the amount checked below.

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

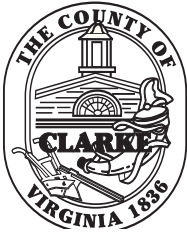
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Make check payable to: Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority and mail to the address at left.

Email address: _____



Clarke County
Conservation
Easement Authority
102 North Church Street
Berryville, VA 22611